

Weekly column for January 6, 2005

It's snowing, it's sleeting, and it is, in a word, disgusting outside. Welcome to the Northeast, as Winter 2005 officially kicks off. Despite the chilly temperatures, the need to scrape of your car before and after work, and the dread of the daily drive, there is reason to be happy today.

Around 1 p.m. this afternoon, the City of Troy had the pleasure of welcoming back 21 soldiers from Iraq to the South Lake Avenue Armory. Delta Company 1-105, which I have written about so many times, is back for good in the home of Uncle Sam.

As the guys were heading back into town after a debriefing out in Rome, NY, they picked up a convoy of City vehicles, including police cars, fire trucks, and Department of Public Works until they reached their destination. Just our little way to say welcome back. At the South Lake Armory, families were blowing into noisemakers, waving American flags, and wiping the tears rolling down their faces. Thankfully, these soldiers will be home for a very long time.

I know I have said this before, but I would like to again. One more time to those 21 individuals, including several, like Tony Buchanan and Tom Griswold, who are from the City of Troy- Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for putting your lives on the line to keep America safe and bring democracy to new places. That is extremely admirable and much appreciated.

On a more humorous note, Tom came up to me after everyone had said there hello's, and mentioned that he was going to replace me one day. I'd like to say, "Bring it on," but I'm more inclined to say you would do a wonderful job. There is nothing that pleases me more than when I see a young man who loves the City of Troy as much as I do. He was disappointed that the Uncle Sam cutout I sent to him several months could not make the trip back. You don't often see that in younger people. But you see it with both Tony and Tom, and I just want to say Welcome Home.

Your City has missed you, and we're glad you are back.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy